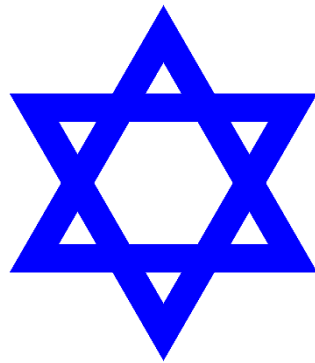




# JEWISH TRADITION



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# “THE CORNERSTONE”

▪ “...Love thy neighbor as thy self. I am the Lord.”

( Leviticus 19: 18)

▪ One hour is only the beginning



# CONSIDERATIONS



- Jews as “A People of the Book”
- What might the Bible and the U.S. Constitution have in common?
- Both can be considered living documents that are open to interpretation for each generation.
- “For this commandment that I command you today – it is not hidden from you and it is not distant...It is not in the heavens...nor is it across the sea...Rather, the matter is very near to you - in your mouth and in your heart – to perform it.” (Deuteronomy 30: 11-14)
- What is lost in translation?
- The example of “Work”

# THE TRANSMISSION (AVOS 1:1)

- One God & no images or fronts (Exodus 20:1-5)
- 613 Commandments + Oral Law
- Moses received the Torah from Sinai, and transmitted it to Joshua, Joshua to the Elders, the Elders to the Prophets, and the Prophets transmitted it to the Men of the Great Assembly. They said three things:
  1. Be deliberate in judgment
  2. Have many students
  3. Make a fence for the Torah



# THE PILLARS (AVOT 1:2)



- Simon the Righteous was among the last members of the great assembly. He would say “on three things the world depends...”

## **1. On Torah study**

- Thus Jewish day schools have Jewish and “secular” studies

## **2. On the service of God**

- 3 prayers per day: Morning, Afternoon, Evening
- The head covering (Yarmulka; Kippah)

## **3. On bestowing kindness**

- Charity/tithing (based on Jacob promise; Genesis 28:20-22)

# THE DIETARY LAWS (KOSHER)

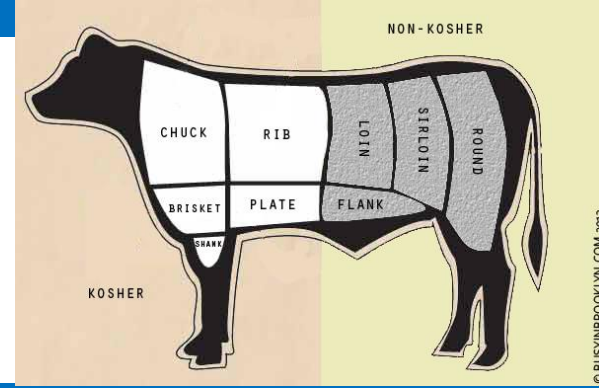


## • Milk & Meat

- What do you get when you add “Do not boil a goat in its mother’s milk” x3 (e.g., Deuteronomy 14:21) with making that fence around the Torah?
  - No eating milk and meat together (and wait times of 30 min between milk and meet, but up to 6 hours between meat and milk)
  - Separate utensils, sinks....



# KOSHER DIETARY LAWS - BEEF



- “Everything among the animals that has a split hoof, which is completely separated into double hooves, and that brings up its cud, that one you may eat” (Leviticus 11:3 -3).
- The camel & the pig, Fakers ;- ) How `bout that troublesome giraffe?
- Complications, also needs to be slaughtered a certain way; “Glatt” Lungs.
- Also, nothing from hindquarters; based on the fight between Jacob and the angel “...Therefore the children of Israel are not to eat the displaced sinew on the hip socket to this day, because he struck Jacob’s hip socket on the displaced sinew” (Genesis 11:33)

# KOSHER LAWS – FISH, FOWL, FENCES (AND INSECTS)



- “This may you eat, from everything that is in the water, everything that has fins & scales...everything that does not have fins & scales in the water - it is an abomination to you” (Leviticus 11:9-12)
- The Forbidden Birds (11:13-19); Tradition tells us what is allowed, including chicken, turkey, duck.
- “Every flying teeming thing that has four legs it is an abomination to you” (Leviticus 11:20-23)
- The contaminated ones (mice, etc.): Leviticus 11:24-32
- The “fence around the Torah”: Eating kosher food prepared in non-kosher facilities



# THE JEWISH YEAR



- Lunar cycle; but Passover is the Holiday of Spring (Deuteronomy 16:1)
- The Jewish "leap year," which occurs seven times in a 19-year cycle, has 13 months instead of the regular year's 12. This is so that the lunar-based Jewish year should remain aligned with the solar seasons (12 lunar months make up a total of 354 days -- slightly more than 11 days short of the 365.25 day solar cycle). The added month is called "Adar I" and is inserted before the month of Adar (termed "Adar II" in leap years)

# SHABBAT AND THE HOLIDAYS



- The Sabbath – “Six days shall you work...but the seventh day is Shabbat to Hashem your God; You shall not do any work” (Exodus 20:8-11); Also see, for example Genesis 1:1-3; Exodus 31:12-15)
- The day starts in evening (Genesis 1:5)
- Sabbath (and holidays/fasts) from Friday at sunset (-18 minutes for candle lighting) until at least 40-min after sunset on Saturday
- Prayer at synagogue, family meals, Torah study, rest, no “work”
- Fence: For holidays “add one day” outside of Israel (Orthodox)

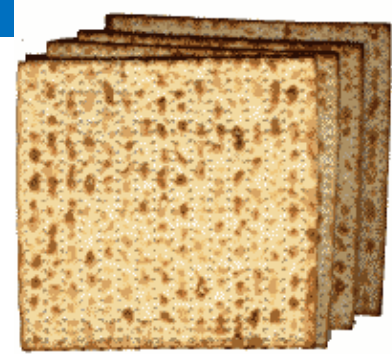
# THE HOLIDAYS



- The “High Holidays” and 10 Days of Atonement (Sept – early Oct)
  - (Leviticus 12:23-32)
- Rosh Hashanah: The New Year
  - 2 days no work; Prayer, festivities
- Yom Kippur: The Day of Atonement
  - 1 day no work; Fasting & Prayer
- The Three Festivals:
  - Sukkot and Shemini Atzeret (Late Sept – Oct) 9 days
    - First 2 & last 2 days no working; Prayer, Festivities
    - Living in huts and waving the lulav/etrog (Leviticus 23:33-43)



# THE HOLIDAYS



- **Passover**: (Late March – April) 8 Days
  - First 2 & Last 2 days no working; Prayer, Festivities, but no unleavened bread (Leviticus 23: 5-8)
- **Shavuot**: (Late May – June)
  - 2 days no working; Prayer, Festivities (Leviticus 23: 5-8)
- **Other holidays**
  - Chanukah (Nov-Dec)
  - Purim (Feb-March)
- **Fast Days** (Minor and Major)



# SOME SUGGESTIONS

- Recognize diversity among Jewish customs (e.g., Ultra Orthodox, Orthodox, Conservative & Reform)
- Be sensitive around issues of kosher and timing of events, if possible
- For Orthodox individuals, be cognizant of gender issues such as physical contact with opposite sex
- Be sensitive to border between religious observance and mental illness, like OCD, others
- Consult Rabbi as appropriate

